

Jan. 8 -

- 0045 - Orders received from Regt. that 3rd Bn. is to move at 0730 to Soultz-Sous-Forêts. Bn. to be motorized and then trucks to return to Preuschdorf for further use by 3rd Bn. QM truck C.O. to report to Regtl. CP at 0930. Bn. C.O. to report to Regtl. C.P. at 0700.
- 0130 - All Co's notified to be ready to entruck at 0715. 3rd Bn. to dig in positions on the reverse slope of the high ground north of Soultz-Sous-Forêts. Bn. is still in Corp reserve but are to form the defense of Soultz-Sous-Forêts in case of a break through.
- 0600 - Bn. stands to and prepares to move.
- 0630 - Bn. C.O. goes to Regt.
- 0700 - C.O. of 827th TDs arrives at Bn. C.P. and reports five of the 12 TDs arrived as the roads were icy. Seven of them slid off the road. Bn. Ex. sends the five TDs on ahead to Soultz-Sous-Forêts.
- 0710 - Bn. S-1 and representatives from each Co. leave Bn. CP to find a temporary assembly area for troops to unload and wait till Co. C.O's pick them up and put them on position.
- 0730 - Bn. crossed IP.
- 0915 - Bn. arrives at and detrucks at Soultz-Sous-Forêts. Bn. CP located in South part of town. A forward CP is in the north end of town. Bn. C.O., S-3, S-2 and Bn. Ex. are at forward CP.
- 1100 - Regtl. C.O. visits rear CP.
- 1115 - Bn. Ex. returns to rear CP.
- 1300 - Bn. C.O. and S-3 return to Bn. rear CP.
- 1450 - Gen Linden visited CP looking over units attached to him.
- 1455 - Co. M C.O. came to CP to plot dispositions of Hvy Wpns.
- 1500 - Maj. Eason, Capt. Pointer, go to inspect 3rd Bn. positions.
- 1525 - 14th Armored is running a dry run maneuver in this area this PM. Co's alerted to this fact.
- 1630 - Regtl. S-3 and Operations Sgt. visit Bn. CP.
- 1700 - Hot chow.
- 1800 - All Co's of third Bn. billeted in buildings, alerted to man OPL and MLR on a minutes notice.
- 1930 - Bn. C.O. and S-3 go to Regt.
- 2045 - Bn. Ex. calls Regt. and contacted Bn. C.O. Maj. Eason reports 3rd Bn. to man OPL at 0715 and the remainder of the Bn. ready to man MLR. Hot breakfast at 0630. Bn. still occupies several towns along the Rhine River. 12th Armored to send elements to clean them up tomorrow. 313th reported heavy enemy patrolling today with strength up to a Co. supported by tanks. 3 En. tanks destroyed, 34 prisoners taken in this action by 313th. A civilian report states the Germans are scheduled to attack tomorrow morning with 3 Divs. Elements known to be in this sector are 21st Panzer and 256th VG Div. Little Arty known to be present. All Co's notified of this information.
- 2045 - Bn. CO and S-3 return from Regt.
- 2300 - Maj. Schreiver called the following info. PW captured today was on a patrol but got lost from it, and thus was picked up 14 hrs later. He stated that the threat of an attack by 14 Divs. was just a "brag." On his way through Wissenbourg he saw six to eight 150mm motorized howitzers. They were on road to Rott. PW wore a U.S. GI shirt under his regular uniform, and it was issued to his unit for its warmth.
- 2345 - Co. I reports automatic weapon fire to the left rear, between our CP and theirs. Also exchange of rifle shots. Co. L reports same fire, sounded toward SE. Co. K also reports same fire. It is about 400 yds away.

Jan 9 -

- 0015 - Called 222nd Regtl. CP. They said that the automatic weapon and rifle fire was caused by 3 men firing on their security OP along the railroad track, and CP returned fire with BAR. No casualties on either side. It is not certain that they were any Germans.
- 0030 - All above info was given to Ex. Off. and phoned to Regt.
- 0545 - The 313th Inf. is reported to have been attacked by a strong En. force on their left flank. All Co's of the 3rd Bn. are alerted to be ready to move anywhere at any time.
- 0605 - Received report that En. Inf. attacked 313th at 0523. No armor reported. Arty fired on them and attack seems to be contained. Med. Arty being fired on Aschbach and Stundwiller and roads leading thereto. No activity in other sectors.
- 0630 - Maj. Eason calls Co's., gives them above info. Co's will not put out their OP line until ordered to do so by the Bn. C.O.
- 0730 - Hot Breakfast is served to Bn.
- 1025 - 1200 - CP reports all quiet.
- 1220 - Bn. C.O. receives notice from Regt. that En. attacked in 313th sector was broken up this morning successfully. En. has attacked the 222nd Inf. near Soufflenheim with approx. 200 men 3rd Bn. is alerted to be ready to move by motors in case of a break through.
- 1245 - Bn. MTO sent back to Preuchdorf for the trucks, and the trucks are to be assigned to Co's, ready for a quick move.
- 1315 - Bn. S-2 and S-3 go on route recon for trucks.
- 1330 - Neg report from OP.
- 1330 - Received report that at 1230 En. hit at Hatten with 12 tanks and 14 recon vehicles, supported by Inf. Confirmed by the 14th Armored and 242nd Inf. Also reports 35 vehicles of all sorts moved toward Hatten from the south, head of the column was at cord. 180-328. 2nd Bn. to move from Hoffen to Rittershoffen with one Co. of tanks of the 14th Armored, to attack and restore the line.
- 1405 - Four friendly planes fly over OP.
- 1405 - Radio intercept from Arty states that Hatten is 3/4 surrounded. The main body of tanks is E of town. These have been identified as being 16 M-4 tanks, 9 personnel carriers, 8 trucks--moving toward Hatten at cord. 180324. Co's notified to get troops and trucks ready to roll on a minimum notice. OP line of 222nd fell back. OP reports no activity.
- 1430 - Regt. notifies 3rd Bn. to move as soon as possible to Leiteswiller. Hqs. to stay in present position for the present until a CP location has been located. Bn. C.O. to call Regt. thru 313th's phone when 3rd Bn. has detrucked for further movement orders. Bn. to cross IP at 1515. TD recon element followed by a platoon of TDs to head the Bn. motor column.
- 1450 - Regtl S-2 reports town of Hatten is completely surrounded by En. tanks and they are still coming. Some are branching off towards town of Rittershoffen.
- 1515 - Bn. crosses IP on motor march.
- 1523 - Bn. notified that 8 En. tanks have been knocked out and 2nd Bn. is now between Rittershoffen and Hatten.
- 1600 - 1715 - All of staff has gone forward to Hoffen.
- 1715 - Bn. MTO returns and alerts Hq. Co. for immediate movement to Hoffen.
- 1800 - Bn. Ex. reports Co. I is on position in vicinity of SE of Hoffen and remainder of Bn. is billeted in Hoffen for immediate movement wherever they are needed. One Plat. of AT Guns from Regtl AT Co. is attached to Bn. TDs are in position. En. tanks can be seen burning in vicinity of Hatten.

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- 1830 - Hot chow brought up for the Bn.
- 1900 - 2100 - Wire lines being laid to all companies.
- 2100 - Regt. reports 11 Bn. tanks were knocked out today around Hatten. The town of Hatten had Bn. tanks almost on all sides but some of our tanks have now gotten through and one in Hatten. One of the Regts. 105 howitzers knocked out by a direct hit of Bn. Arty.
- 2145 - Arty FO of 310th FA Arty reports to Bn. C.O. that a forward observer is with Co. I and his defensive fires for us.
- 2150 - Co. I wire line came in. All Co's now have wire communication with Bn. CP. AT Co. C.O. reports 1 platoon of AT guns will be with 3rd Bn. as long as they are in Hatten.
- 2230 - Several rounds of Bn. Arty fell in Hatten coming from a 115 degree A.
- 2245 - One platoon of 827th TDs to be taken away from 3rd Bn. and sent to the 1st Bn.

Jan. 10 -

- 0205 - Communication line check. Co. K and Co. L report S/A fire 2000 yds. to front and left of Co. L. Co. M also reports sounds of S/A
- 0218 - Reported MG fire heard about 500 yds out.
- 0245 - Bismark says friends on left report movement of tanks in vicinity of Huppach.
- 0320 - E Co. inquired about movement of vehicles heard to SW of here, several thousands yds away.
- 0345 - 0715 - Neg. report from all Co's.
- 0755 - Bismark 2 reported Bn. Act. in Glesbourg. Bridge at 160403 blown by Americans during the night. 2nd Bn. in west part of Hatten, Bn. still occupying E part with 3 self propelled guns in vicinity of Church.
- 0910 - Notified AT Plat.Ldr. to place AT Guns in W part of Hatten.
- 0945 - Regt. reports Bn. is attacking Hatten from the S with 200 Inf. and from the E with 200 Inf.
- 0955 - Co. I alerted to be ready to move on a minutes notice.
- 1030 - Regt. reports things are quieting down around Hatten.
- 1100 - Bn. Arty shelling Hatten. About 30 rds fell in one concentration.
- 1125 - Regt. reports 2nd Bn. has two Co's in Hatten. 2nd Bn. attacked from the S and the W.
- 1135 - Co. M reports Lt. Pratt hit and evacuated in the Bn. Arty barrage at 1100.
- 1200 - CP reports everything quiet.
- 1230 - Regtl. S-3 alerts 3rd Bn. to be ready for possible move into Hatten to assist the 2nd Bn. Bn. C.O. and S-3 go to Regt to receive further orders. QM trucks being held back in Soultz-Sous-Forêts until ordered to move. All Co's notified to be ready to move on a minutes notice.
- 1300 - Bn. Ex. alerts all Co's to cross IP at 1350. Small scale vehicles to go a separate route as foot troop are going via cross country.
- 1330 - Bn. S-1 and billeting party leaves for Rittershoffen.
- 1350 - Bn. crosses IP. Order of march, L, K, I, and M. Hqs to stay in present position until called for.
- 1530 - Bn. arrives at Rittershoffen and are shown to respective areas. Town filled with elements of 42nd Div., 14th Armored, 2nd Bn., 315th and 3rd Bns. vehicles and troops.
- 1630 - Several Bn. Jet Propelled planes fly over Rittershoffen and fire several rockets or bombs on the town. One jeep knocked out. AA fire seemed to be ineffective against the planes due to their speed.

SKETCH OF

RITTERSHOPFEN

LEGEND-DOTTED
LINES REPRESENT
BLDGs. BEFORE
JAN 10, 45

LIETERSWILLER



68

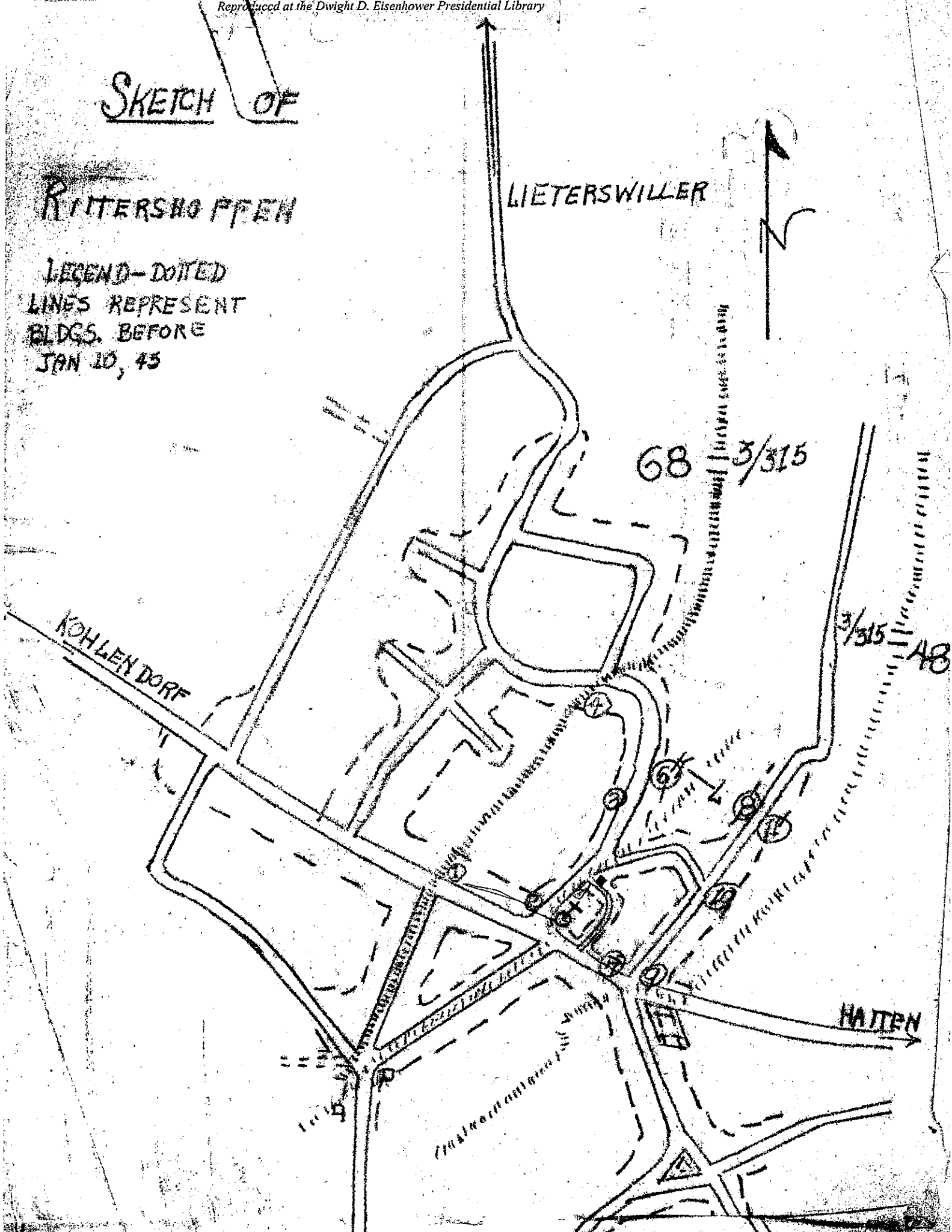
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KOHLENDORF

HAITEN



- 1650 - 1815 - En. fires constant Arty on the town. Several fires started. Two 3rd Bn. vehicles knocked out. No casualties reported in 3rd Bn.
- 1920 - Regt. calls for Bn. C.O. and S-3 to report to Regtl. CP at once.
- 1920 - Hqs. Co. closes into Rittershoffen. Present plans are for the defense of Rittershoffen by blocking roads with TDs and AT Guns.
- 2300 - C.O. of TD Bn. and his S-3 visits CP. Intentions are to move our TD support back to
- 2400 - Ex. Off. has obtained cannon Co. support for our Bn.

Jan. 10 -

- 0025 - Bn. to remain in position tonight and be prepared to repel C/A from right flank with Co. of tanks attached.
- 0030 - Units notified TDs were detached. All lines out to Co's and Regt.
- 0040 - Cannon Co. observer, Lt. Rose, visits Bn. CP. Lt. Rathall, fwd observer of Arty for TD unit visits CP, reports he will be here at his Co. CP for tonight and go back up tomorrow morning at 0730. He is of the 500 FA.
- 0055 - Occasional rounds of artillery falling in town.
- 0115 - Capt. Winter checks with medics on number of casualties--one Ev., Capt. Pratt, on wounded and one returned to duty in L Co.
- 0125 - Regtl. 2 reports bingo patrol was late arriving to designated point, will have remainder on time.
- 0200 - Message from Radio--Patrol returned, heard XL (tanks) warming up at IWPXV (150) and saw a light burning there.
- 0210 - Lt. Wilson visited Bn. C.P.
- 0235 - Lines back into Co's.
- 0250 - Co. I patrol failed to contact Bingo Blue. Heard some armor moving thought to be our own in vicinity of Oberroderm.
- 0255 - Fuller Blue reports armor moving from Hatten to Foret Dale.
- 0435 - Bismark reports considerable vehicle movement E and in the woods S of Hatten.
- 0556 - Report that vehicles are moving South from the Northwest. Arty barrage in middle of town.
- 0650 - K Co. patrol Neg. Searched houses and received only Arty fire. Small arms fire in NE part of town.
- 0715 - Intense S/A fire coming from NE of town. All communications out to the Co's and Regt.
- 0730 - Bn. C.O. contacts Co. I and Co. I reports the En. is hitting their right flank right in the town with considerable strength. One of our tanks knocked out. A reserve platoon of tanks being sent to reinforce them.
- 0750 - Co. K C.O. reports to Bn. CP and says Co. L has withdrawn back past K Co. C.P. Maj. Eason orders Co. K to hold fast. No En. has hit Co. K yet.
- 0800 - Co. L reports things have quieted down and they are going to push out again. Defensive Arty fires being laid down. Co. L is calling for tanks to fire on main road to Hatten.
- 0810 - Tank CO reports that 3 of his tanks are now disabled.
- 0820 - Co. L reports En. tanks are now at church. An En. tank is reported in the N end of town.
- 0900 - Co. M reports an En. tank and Inf. right on top of them. Co. M ordered to employ any bazookas they can against them.
- 0905 - Regt. reports reinforcements on the way, including tanks, from Surbourg.
- 0910 - All draws and possible routes of entry from the east and northeast/ I Co. reports En. digging in to their front.

- 0925 - A runner reports 30 I Co. men surrendered on N end of town. Co. I calls for reinforcements.
- 0940 - S-2 goes back to meet a Co. of tanks and guide them to the North of town. One of the AT guns knocked out by En. Arty. Part of Co. M mortars surrounded by the En. Bazooka teams are now placed on roads leading into town from South. Hqs. Co. has CP area well out posted.
- 1050 - Reports are from PW that about 15 tanks and 5 Co's of Infantry are attacking us. One Mark VI is in vicinity of church, and is surrounded by our troops. Co. L C.O. reports his bazooka teams and MGs are in position. Co. M mortar Lt., Lt. Venn, reports he is surrounded and is calling for assistance. One En tank is right in on them plus Inf. Lt. Venn ordered to W/draw if possible and to stay fast if not possible, as some of our tanks are on the way to help them. Co. K and L are now ready to attack and clear the En. from the town. En. tanks are camouflaged in white, also there Inf. are dressed in white.
- 1110 - Co. L reports they have men in the church. Church previously had Jerries in it. Regtl. AT man reports two En. tanks on the road between Hatten and Rittershoffen. Regtl. AT gun has been over run by the enemy. Co. L has a man driving a tank abandoned by the 14th Armored.
- 1130 - Co. L captured a Pz and he reports he is from 21st Panzer Div. Co. I platoon on the Hill north of the town report they are in good shape and 3 of our tanks are with them. Bn. Ex. orders them to send 15 men with the tanks and hit the town to clear out what Inf. that has infiltrated into it. Elements of our 68th Armored Div. is digging in around town of Hoffen in case of a breakthrough here.
- 1210 - Platoon Sgt. of AT Plat. reports some of Co. L men are back in the town of Niederbedstorf. A truck sent back after them. Reports are that elements of the 42nd Div. pulled back this morning from Hatten and caused many of 3rd Bns. men to w/draw.
- 1215 - Part of Hqs. Co. and Regtl AT plat. being organized incleaning out the town. 1220 - Co. L reports an En. tank coming into town towards the church. Tank C.O. alerts his gun to be on the lookout for it. Arty. FO reports an En. tank moving E of town. FO instructed to fire on him. Col. Holten, 2nd Bn. C.O., reports not much activity in town of Hatten. Arty. FO reports Mark-VI tank that has been in town is withdrawing towards Hatten. Our Arty to interdict that road.
- 1230 - Co. L reports 3 En. tanks behind the church between Hatten and Rittershoffen.
- 1320 - AT Plat. Ldr. reported wounded by sniper in vicinity of the church. Sniper was reported in church by Co. L men.
- 1350 - Regtl line comes in and Bn. C.O. gives the present situation to Regtl. C.O. Seven En. tanks are now reported in vicinity of the church. Co. M C.O. reports 2 En. personnel carriers came into town and they were fired on by our bazookas and one was hit. Tanks on N end of town report they are drawing S/A fire as they advance south toward town. Also they spotted our AT guns that were cut off. They have drawn no fire as yet. Lt. Goranson and his approximate platoon is still cut off to the outside of town to the NE and Lt. Venn and section of mortars still cut off.
- 1510 - Co. I platoon that is cut off reports En. is digging in North of town.
- 1510 - About 10 En. tanks are attacking the town from the North. They are blasting each house as they advance. En. tank is now by the church and heading toward Bn. CP. Hvy tank fire is falling up around church

- 1520 - Co. K reports En. Inf. swinging around to the West of town. Regt. notifies Bn. that one Co. of 16th Armored are supposed to attack on each flank of Rittershoffen at 1545. En. is still attacking from the NE.
- 1605 - Co. K ordered to move what reserve they have in between K Co's. left flank and Co. L's right flank as a gap exists there.
- 1700 - 3rd Bn. setting up a circular defense with what personnel that is available and with few Auto. Wpns. Three AT guns remain out of twelve. Co. I platoon still cutoff. No report on Armored attack that was to take place at 1545.
- 1800 - Beucoup En. tank fire in vicinity of Bn. CP.
- 1900 - Regt. sent a message by motor of 3rd Bn's. predicament. No wire commo. with Regt. SCR-284 knocked out also.
- 1930 - The one remaining tank of ours pulled out and went back without notifying anyone, leaving one road with no AT protection.
- 2000 - 150 mines sent for to mine all roads. Msg. sent to Regt. that it is almost impossible to hold the town against another armored Inf. attack.
- 2030 - 68th Armored Inf contacted 3rd Bn. and reported they are dug in on hill N of town. Their orders are to attack in the morning to clear N part of town.
- 2115 - 2nd En. reports they are being attacked in the town of Hatten. Our Arty. firing TOTs to try to break it up.
- 2200 - Capt. Goranson contacted by radio and instructed to try and come back in thru our lines thru 2nd Bn.
- 2215 - Regt. reports 2 TDs being sent to our CP.
- 2230 - Capt. Goranson, Lt. Howe, and 6 of his men arrive at Bn. C.P. They report, Lt. Barlow, 18 of his men, and 3 of our tanks are still in position N of town.
- 2235 - Lt. Kuda returns with about a squad of his men. A party being sent back out to pick up some wounded. Regtl. AT sends a load of mines to 3rd Bn. CP.

Jan. 12 -

- 0130 - AT Co. Off. has set up an OP line along road to our rear. They have 50 cal. MGs and 30s, but no AT defense.
- 0200 - I Co. commo. Sgt. brought in one German prisoner and reported a 20 man patrol is operating near their position. Two more TDs were brought to us. One will be kept in mobile reserve near Bn. CP and other will be attached to Co. L. CCA and CCB will attack in the morning to restore the lines. CCA to continue toward present obj. CCB to circle into Hatten.
- 0245 - Three En tanks and one personnel carriers were stopped in front of I Co. CP by our Arty. fire and then pulled out to rear. Enemy entered town today via sunken road at (16073444). They rode in on white halftracks, 1st tank then a halftrack then another tank in that procession.
- 0300 - Ex. gave Co's instructions to be very alert and that church would have to be taken in the early morning.
- 0615 - K Co reports a tank schuffling around in rear of the church.
- 0645 - Major Eason phoned Bismark white and informed them of Maj. Hoovers' message and on the attack by CCA and CCB. Also made arrangements for some mortar support from them.
- 0700 - Wire to all Co's in. Bismark still out.
- 0800 - Com M reports our tanks and Inf. are entering the N part of the town from the W. S/A fire and Tank fire heard E of town.

- 0830 - Tank C.O. reports to CP and gets permission to fire on the church steeple. A Co. of Armored Inf. and a Co. of tanks moving towards Hatten.
- 0835 - Co. C.O. of tanks reports church is a strong point of the En. and they are having a little trouble reducing it. Our tanks moving in town from the W. Co. L notified to remove the mines before they get to the main street.
- 0900 - Tanks and Inf making small gains on both sides of the town. 3rd Bn. holding fast in present positions.
- 0930 - One tank pulled into position and fired several rounds into the church.
- 0945 - Lt. Barnes, 3rd Bn. liaison Off. to Regt. returns to Bn. CP to get the situation.
- 1015 - Tank C.O. reports 2 Germans assault guns dug in near the church. Our Inf. pinned down by S/A on the E side of town and haven't entered the town as yet.
- 1050 - Two of our tanks have been knocked out on the E edge of town.
- 1100 - Co. L reports more En. tanks coming in town on the road from Hatten. Lt. Barlow and his platoon that are on high ground N of town are being called into Rittershoffen.
- 1120 - Tank C.O. reports a platoon of Inf to attack up the street leading to the church. Co. L and K notified to give them supporting fire. Also our Armor to attack road between Rittershoffen and Hatten at 1130.
- 1145 - Co. L reports our Arty falling too short for Armored Arty to make any progress forward.
- 1150 - Tank C.O. received message from his tanks on West side of town that an undetermined number of En. vehicles are firing on them and have knocked out one tank. Want permission to w/draw to better positions. Tank fire from West part of town hitting church steeple. Contact made with 2nd Bn. to cease fire on church as armored Inf. are advancing on it.
- 1200 - Intense S/A fire fight taking place in vicinity of church. As soon as church falls an OP is to be set up by 3rd Bn. held by Inf.
- 1215 - En. Arty. concentration fell near Bn. C.P. and a direct hit made on SCR 284 jeep destroying it. No casualties reported.
- 1330 - Regtl C.O. visits 3rd Bn. CP. Arty. FO reports En. Inf. retreating to the East. Hvy. mortar fire falling in Rittershoffen.
- 1400 - Very little progress made in cleaning out the N end of town by the Armored Inf. and tanks. Intense En. mortar fire being laid in Rittershoffen.
- 1430 - Lt. Kudas platoon returns and Lt. Kuda is slightly wounded. Lt. Venn is still missing. His platoon Sgt. got back.
- 1500 - Co. L reports En. has set fire to equipment abandoned by the 42nd.
- 1530 - Our Armored Inf and tanks are moving again into town from the West. Intense S/A and En. Arty falling in that area.
- 1600 - L Co. Mortar observer fired on a Mark VI tank with 60mm mortar and knocked off a track. 155s shot on tank and knocked it out.
- 1620 - En. arty has set several bldgs. on fire near Bn. CP and they are spreading this way.
- 1700 - Fires spreading in the middle of town due to quite a wind.
- 1730 - Not much more of the town in our hands than last night. Elements of Armored Inf. took only a few houses on N W part of town and tanks and Inf. digging in East of town and a Co. of Armored Inf. is billeted in bldgs in south part of town.
- 1800 - A circular defense being set up as 2nd Bn. reported they thought their CP was being outflanked by En. Inf. Co. I alerted to put CPs to the rear of town for protection.

- 1830 - 2nd Bn. CP on fire and they are having to move.
- 1900 - Blood plasma being fired by Arty to 2nd Bn. in Hatten.
- 1915 - Lt. Venn returned from hiding since being cut off yesterday. Several of his men have gotten back also. Maj. Eason promoted to Lt. Col.
- 1930 - 2nd Bn. CP on the move and wire communications out to them. En. still shelling Rittershoffen. Town pretty well demolished. Several Co. I men brought back from Soultz-Sous-Forêts. After En. infiltrated our lines yesterday morning quite a few Co. I and L men were missing. Quite a few known to be captured.
- 2000 - Arty defensive fires being set up and plans to set bldgs on fire in N end of town in effort to burn the Jerries out.
- 2035 - 1 civilian picked up by Co. L that came through the front lines. Civilian questioned and he reports several German tanks behind the church, around 15 of them.
- 2130 - Arty. FC sent to Co. L mortar CP to direct Arty fire on bldgs where tanks are reported.
- 2215 - WP Arty fired on bldg and fires started in En. part of town.
- 2230 - Col. Holton, 2nd Bn. C.O. visits CP and reports his Bn. is in pretty good shape.
- 2245 - Lt. Barnes, 3rd Bn. liaison officer to Regt., reports 3rd Bn. now a part of COA. Capt. Pointer, Bn. Ex., to report to Regt. tonight to receive orders. CCR to attack towards Hatten tomorrow.
- 2320 - One yellow flare reported to the left of church.

Jan. 13 -

- 0130 - Wires all in.
- 0230 - Capt. Pointer has received the order and is on his way back to our CP.
- 0245 - Wire is in to Co's and Bismark.
- 0300 - 2nd Mag. Capt. Pointer is on the way back.
- 0320 - Ex. returned and is giving the order to the Staff.
- 0500 - 3rd Bn. to attack center of town of Rittershoffen to seize and hold. Attached to COA. Time 0800. Our plans are to get a platoon across the main thoroughfare before daylight. 68th Armored Inf. on the left, K on left and L on right. I Co. in reserve. 48th supports by fire. Ammo is being distributed. Arty. is to fire until 0700 and then stop fire in town except on call.
- 0715 - K Co. reports having jumped off.
- 0745 - Tank activity and firing north of CP about 400 yds. Tank officer stopped at CP to plan how to commit his remaining 4 tanks. Tank activity reported south east of village.
- 0750 - Lt. Shelton and several men got into church but could not stay - too hot. Lt. was wounded.
- 0800 - Co. K platoon crossed 200 yds. west of church and are working towards it.
- 0812 - TDs advanced to 40 yds. beyond L Co. CP and is firing on church.
- 0830 - Co. K reports an En. tank behind the church.
- 0840 - Lt. Garguille, Co. K platoon leader, is advancing from bldg to bldg toward the church.
- 0845 - Our tanks moving into position up the street towards the church. CCR advancing on the left flank with a Bn. of tanks and some Inf.
- 0855 - Our tanks are closing in on the church from two sides.
- 0925 - Major Gavin, tank C.O. reports CCR has passed thru his unit on our right and are advancing against light opposition. They are preparing to go into Hatten from the S as 2nd Bn. is still cut off there.

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- 0940 - Co. L is ready to push off across the street.
- 1000 - Co. L reports one of our tanks knocked out near the church by En. AT gun. 68th Armored reports the capture of 3 PWs last night.
- 1015 - Co. K reports Lt. Garguille has 2 sections of MGs across the street. They are flushing En. Inf. out of the bldgs and they are heading for the church.
- 1110 - 2nd Bn. reports they are being attacked from the E by tanks, Inf, and flame throwers. The 2nd Bn. is holding its ground so far.
- 1120 - Co. L reports they knocked out a burp gun with 60 mortar fire.
- 1130 - Arty firing on En. tank between Hatten and Rittershoffen.
- 1145 - C.O. of CCA visits Bn. CP and wants town of Rittershoffen cleared by night.
- 1230 - Several flights of our bombers fly over towards Germans.
- 1310 - Lt. Ryan, Co. L C.O., calls for A&P section to blow a hole in a wall so a TD can fire through it on En. Positions near church.
- 1330 - En. Jet propelled plane flew over Rittershoffen.
- 1436 - The unit on our left made good progress, but had to w/draw a little. Co. K still held down by Auto. fire.
- 1500 - Tank C.O. reports two more of our tanks knocked out over on our right flank. One of our tanks is maneuvering around where he can fire into the rear of the church. This tank is receiving fire from the next town but is still moving into a firing position. The church seems to be the strong point of the town.
- 1530 - Bn. C.O., S-3, and Maj. Caven go to unit on our left CP.
- 1600 - Little progress has been made in clearing out the North end of town.
- 1630 - Co. K reports Lt. Garguille is cut off from his platoon. Lt. Mueller is injured. 2nd Bn. reports supplies dropped to them in Hatten by air was pretty badly damaged. TD ammunition unusable.
- 1700 - Co. L reports 1 En. tank moving SE. Tanks and TDs notified to be on the alert. Message received from CCA that part of our unit has captured 2 En. tanks.
- 1610 - Co. K notified to put another platoon across the street to bolster Lt. Garguille's platoon.
- 1615 - Co. L to try and slip a few men into the church tonight. En. mortars shelling heavily on the part of town held by 3rd Bn.
- 1700 - Plans being made for circular defense again tonight.
- 1800 - 2nd Bn. was contacted by CCR today and they got supplies to them. They report they were repeatedly attacked and had to give up a little ground each attack. Relief got there in time.
- 1830 - Lt. Garguille pulled back to K Co. CP with his platoon and reports they couldn't have held what they had. The church is a strongpoint and has many Germans in it. They have a back entrance and go inside during an Arty. barrage. Church and bldg behind it are well built and Arty. and mortar fire doesn't dent it.
- 1905 - Lt. Garguille to recross the street tonight and occupy a bldg. 2nd Bn. CP to move back to next town and CP group to move up to Hatten thru route opened by CCR.
- 1930 - Armored Inf. on our left hit by approximately 30 Germans but they didn't give up any ground.
- 2000 - Sgt. Courtney, Co. L., escaped from Germans when cut off several days ago and reports approximately 40 of our men were captured and marched to a point between Rittershoffen and Hatten where the Jerries opened up on them with MGs and mowed them down. They were left for dead but Courtney escaped when Germans left. All the rest are believed to be dead.

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- 2020 - Co. L reports an En. tank pulling up to right of the church.
- 2100 - 2230 - En. tank with flame thrower firing into K Co. Arty firing and tanks are attacking our front lines. Arty. hits Lt. Carroll. Lots of our Armored Inf. running back past Bn. CP. Our tanks being pulled into positions to cover all roads leading past Bn. CP. Co. L reports our TDS are unmanned. 68th Armored Inf. reports two En. tanks definitely knocked out. Our Arty. firing as close to our troops as possible to ward off the attack. Final results of night attack is Co. K platoon pushed back across main street, Armored Inf. on right forced to evacuate bldg. held by them. En. flame thrower and some En. Inf. got into bldg. next to Co. L. Co. L cleaning out the bldg and lines are pretty well in tact.
- 2300 - 2400 - En. tank movement can be heard to our front. Our Arty. firing on them. Sporadic S/A fire can be heard.
- Jan. 14 -
- 0235 - En. van half track up to right flank and is trying infiltration. S/A fire and mortar fire was directed at the vehicles. En. has set up .50 Cal. MG in bldg. next to L Co. S-3 alerted Lt. Reid of unit on right and he is going down there to see about the situation.
- 0320 - Tank unit reports En. tank activity south of Rittershoffen.
- 0330 - Co. L is adjusting Arty. on En.
- 0345 - Four green flares reported to have been put up in center of town by En.
About 0430 two half-tracks will take supplies into Hatten. Moving from 160329 to 170332 to Hatten.
- 0445 - S/A and MG fire on right of L Co.
- 0500 - Fire ceased.
- 0520 - I Co. reports hearing En. vehicular movement beyond church. L Co. called for emergency barrage on En. tracked vehicles on road behind church. K Co. is occupying bldgs just S of burning bldgs.
- 0530 - Stand to. En. tank reported on crossroad east of L Co. CP. Can be heard from our CP.
- 0615 - 68th Inf. reports firing on 8 En. troops at eastern edge of town.
- 0615 - K Co. reports that they are sending 26 civilians back to CP.
- 0630 - Bldg. next to Lt. Prys K Co. platoon, is burning up and he may be forced to evacuate.
- 0650 - Tanks moving in vicinity of Barrage 63 on road E of church. Arty was placed on the spot.
- 0700 - One red flare put up by En. to north of church.
- 0750 - En. tank moving into area east of the church again.
- 0755 - Flame throwing tank is setting on RJ west of church. There is no way to approach him as he is backed up to our knocked out receiver.
- 0830 - Unit on left reports En. pull type AT weapons on N side of town, they fired on the white clad personnel and caused casualties and made the crews withdraw into woods to N.
- 0840 - The tanks report having knocked out an SP gun that was on RJ.
- 0900 - Co. L reports En. phosphorous mortar shells falling in bldgs in their area.

- 0945 - Lt. Barnes returned from Regtl. Hqs. We are to have 5 tanks attached to us and take over 48th sector.
- 1009 - Three PWS report that they were brought in last night. Were sent out to infiltrate our lines. Point of assembly was the church. Approximately 100 men were in there last night. One Regt. employed against us plus six tanks and two flame throwers.
- 1030 - Co. L reports a tank moving around the church. TDs alerted.
- 1030 - 1130 - Considerable En. Activity observed taking place in and around the church. A 155 assault gun is being sent to 3rd Bn. CP to reduce the church to ruins. Armored Inf on our right fired on En. Inf.
- 1210 - Regt. radioed Bn. and said to evacuate wounded from (pt. 5), church under a red cross flag and white flag. Bn. to make necessary arrangements for this operation.
- 1215 - Msg. sent to C.O., CCA, by Bn. C.O. with Maj. Cavin--Request CO of Inf. from 62nd Inf as soon as possible. Plan to employ them to attack NE from vicinity of RJ at 167333 to take SE portion of Rittershoffen supported by fire of assault guns from positions of junction, plus movement of tanks now located East of obj., into that position of town. This plan can succeed and Co. is needed not only to make a attack but to hold objective after it is gained. Must be made available immediately to jump off in time.
- 1230 - Co. K reports bldgs in his area on fire and Inf. is infiltrating to his right. Lt. Pry Co. K Plat. Ldr across the main street is calling for assistance.
- 1240 - K Co. C.O. reports his platoon under control now.
- 1310 - Officer commanding 155 SP gun arrives at CP and plans formulated to fire on church. All Co. COs notified and 155 gun being brought up to be put in position.
- 1320 - Allied aircraft bombing and strafing En. positions to our front.
- 1335 - Co. L reports they think the En. is pulling out. But snipers are still firing from the church steeple. Two casualties received in K Co. from this fire. Bn. CP being moved back to a house on edge of Rittershoffen.
- 1340 - Plan submitted by Col. Eason was refused.
- 1345 - 155 firing as planned.
- 1350 - Co. L reports enemy infiltrating around to the right of town.
- 1355 - An. En. tank reported coming around the right of town. Our tanks in position firing MG thru the orchard in direction of attack.
- 0 Our tanks spotted the German tank about 400 yds out on our right. Co. L reports our Arty falling short. Arty liaison officer checking all Arty to left, and to lift it.
- 1440 - CCA being asked for a report on action every 10 minutes.
- 1500 - En. laying hvy concentrations of mortar. One round hit old CP room and several men wounded. One TD hit and knocked out. Co. L reports 2 of there mortar men injured in mortar barrage.
- 1520 - 3rd Bn. receiving many casualties from repeated En. mortar fire. Message sent to Regt. to not fire Arty. close to our troops unless our liaison officer calls for it. SP gun pulled back. Church has large hole in it but its still intact.
- 1600 - Tank CO reports he got orders to w/draw his tanks that cut the road NE of Rittershoffen. Plans being made to repel expected

- 1600 - (con'd) tank attack tonight. Another circular defense being set up.
- 1645 - Col. from CCA visits CP and reports we have plenty of armor and Inf. backing us up but the town is our responsibility.
- 1700 - Lt. McAlpine wounded.
- 1700 - 1845 - Some enemy arty and mortar fire received. Things are unusually quiet.
- 1930 - Co. L reports our tanks fired through the hole in the church.
- 2000 - Co. K reports an enemy tank moving around to their left.
- 2020 - Co. L reports En. tank is moving closer. Arty being fired by En. to cover movement of the tank. Our Arty being fired in vicinity of enemy tank movement.
- 2020 - 2130 - Not much activity. Things are much too quiet.
- 2140 - Arty reports En. is attacking 2nd Bn. in Hatten. Intense S/A fire can be heard in that vicinity. Our Arty is firing in that sector.
- 2140 - 2230 - S/A fire continues in vicinity of Hatten.
- 2240 - Plans are being made to fire MGs Mortars, and Arty at 2309, 0217 and 0616 to harass the enemy.
- 2255 - Msg. received from CCA as follows: Enemy attacked Hatten at 2200 with tanks and Inf. En. tank column reported approaching Hatten from the East and NE.

Jan. 15 -

- 0025 - Lt. Klien and 18 of his men are going to help the Engrs lay mines in a semicircle around the village.
- 0045 - Artillery fired a prepared barrage above the church and men were heard yelling and screaming thereafter.
- 0100 - Co's L, K, report no En. activity other than Arty. and Mortar fire.
- 0230 - L Co. reports vehicular movement around the church. L Co. still hears motors behind the church, all other Co's. report very little fire drawn by demonstration and otherwise Neg.
- 0300 - Some S/A fire after demonstration. Intermittant mort and Arty fire. Vehicular movement in vicinity of church. Everything under control.
- 0340 - En. half track moving around back of church also motors still heard behind church, probably generating electricity for radio.
- 0400 - Some En. S/A fire, harrassing mortar and Arty fires. Some vehicular movement beyond church.
- 0424 - Fool called to notify us that mines have been layed at RJ 1565-3375 and CR 156-339.
- 0500 - Mine detail leaves En.
- 0530 - L and K report vehicular and Inf. activity on both sides of church. Co's all alerted for demonstration.
- 0606 - Considerable S/A and Arty. fire on left of our Bn.
- 0610 - Co's have requested 60mm mortar flares and none are available.
- 0645 - Tank firing from vicinity of church reported by Co. L. Arty requested to fire on same.
- 0650 - Co. I reports S/A fire from vicinity of church. Vehicular and S/A fire reported in vicinity of church.
- 0750 - Co. A reports an En. tank moving E to Hatten.
- 0850 - Msg from CCA. Attack by fire. Will commence at 0815 this morning.
- 0900 - En. is reported working down the main street toward Co. I from the church. All Co's notified.

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- 0940 - Sniper firing reported coming from area right of our right flank.
 - 1020 - Arty reports enemy vehicles and men moving toward Rittershoffen from the N. Indications are another attack soon.
 - 1030 - Bn. Ex. called to Regt. to get shifting of troops around Rittershoffen.
 - 1055 - Msg. from CCA--Enemy vehicles taken under fire by our Arty at coord. 175339, 176339, 137339, results not known.
 - 1110 - Msg. sent to CCA--This unit has been blocking roads from Hatten to Rittershoffen by harrassing Arty fire at points 163343, 163341 and 162343.
 - 1130 - En. tank movement fired on by Arty.
 - 1140 - 155 SP gun arrives at Bn. CP and is going to fire at church again.
 - 1200 - 3 rounds of 155 fired at church, but had to pull back as dust hindered visibility. Church still standing but SP gun to be pulled up and fired again this afternoon.
 - 1210 - Maj. Cavin, Tank C.O. reports En. reinforcements arriving in Rittershoffen.
 - 1345 - Lt. Barnes brings orders--Resume attack immediately, 31315 take the church, use 155mm assault gun, rush in surround the church and take it. Plan now is to fire 155 at church at 1415 and then follow with tank firing phosphorous.
 - 1415 - Time moved up to 1430 due to mortar fire.
 - 1420 - Tank moving slowly down behind church. Light Arty adjusting unit.
 - 1430 - Continuous mortar fire in vicinity that 155mm gun must use to fire on church, attack delayed.
 - 1435 - Regtl C.O. visits the CP to find how the attack is progressing. Attack has not been started yet, as it is believed that the church cannot be held with the surrounding bldgs. still held by enemy. Strength of Co's. is critically low for an attack on all the surrounding area. Our 31313 knocked out a supply half-track, with personnel in it, with MG and bazooka fire. Location is coord. 1226.
 - 1450 - Ex. Off. called the 68th to have them rip the top off the church to cause a diversion so that we can maneuver our assault gun into position. The action starts at 1500.
- The tank commander reported to C.O. that he has 10 tanks left from 36 that came in here a week ago.
- 1502 - Regtl. C.O. leaves CP.
 - 1510 - L Co. reports mortars still falling in vicinity of CP.
 - 1525 - C.O. has call from Gen. Wall.
 - 1540 - An. En. Arty barrage hit the Bn. CP. No one injured. Co. I reports they have killed the sniper that has been bothering them.
 - 1545 - Msg. from CCA that 14th Armored Bn. in Hatten has been attacked by a Bn. of Inf. and Tanks.
 - 1600 - 155 SP gun C.O. reports unit on our left has fired on the church with tanks and he can't see to fire on church. Also mortar fire hinders him from moving the gun into position.
 - 1605 - First Bn. is returning to 315th Regt. tomorrow.
 - 1630 - Msg. to C.O., CCA--Hvy Arty and mortar fire prevented 155 from shooting. Also smoke and dust restricted observation. Unable to take objective.
 - 1655 - Co. L reports they are receiving hvy mortar fire.
 - 1730 - Co. K hit hard by mortar barrage. Several litter cases. Lt. Kuda injured.

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- 1800 - Defensive fires for tonight are about the same as last night. some of our tanks have been taken from us and put on the right flank to tie in with 68th. 5 tanks have been attached to the 3rd Bn. One tank to be blocking all three roads leading past Bn. C.P. and two tanks firing to the right side of the town thru the orchard. Two light tanks are behind the CP. Two TD are still in same position. Inf. remain the same. Maj. Cavins tanks are the ones w/drawn.
- 1810 - An. exceedingly heavy Arty shell lit in front of Bn. CP.
- 1820 - Lt. Pry brought into CP and he is in a considerable nervous condition.
- 1825 - Tank CO reports one of our light tanks ran over one of our mines and was blown off the road between Rittershoffen and Neiderbetsdorf. Road blocked with debris.
- 2000 - Sq. of men being sent to clear road of debris as ambulance can evacuate the wounded men in the tank.
- 2010 - CCA reports an enemy patrol is infiltrating to the south of us.
- 2025 - Co. reports an En. plane overhead. Cannon Co. is firing WP on bldgs on right side of town to try and light up the area so the Germans can't C/A. 3 volleys fired but no fires started.
- 2030 - 75 Ammo still exploding in burning tank that was blown up by mine.
- 2035 - 2nd Bn. reports there is no change in situation.
- 2100 - Arty firing on enemy tank movement N of Rittershoffen. It fell short and hit OP. No one injured. It is being thrown our 300 yds. further.
- 2100 - 2200 - Occasional En. tank movement to our front. Mortar fire falling in 3rd Bn. sector.
- 2210 - Unit on our right called for w/flare to be thrown up on our right flank.
- 2215 - Notified 68th Inf. Co. M, Co. I that Lt. Tilley of 14th Armored Engrs. would be laying mines SW of Rittershoffen starting at 1115.
- 2250 - Lt. Perrault reports tanks moving to our right on road to Hatten.
- 2315 - Liaison officer to Regt. brings orders to 3rd Bn. Orders for 3rd Bn. will continue its operation set for this afternoon by capture of the church and bldgs. to the north. Use the M-12 gun. Regt. reports UCR was attacked today by a Bn. Results-- they knocked out 1 Mark IV tank. 2nd Bn. was attacking but they gained ground against the enemy. It is believed that 21st Pan. Div. is being replaced by a paratroop unit. We have 4000 to 5000 mines layed between Leiterswiller and the woods. Everyone to be notified where mines are.
- 2400 - Msg. from CCA--C/A against UCR repulsed.
- Jan. 16 -
- 0005 - All Co's checked for any activity and Co. L is firing mortar on 7 Jerries observed in a bldg.
- 0045 - Co. I, L, report two tanks by church, one is on the main road.
- 0055 - Co. L reports hearing En. troops talking and moving around back of church and up the hill from there.
- 0215 - Two En. tanks reported to rear of church, one across the cross-road, and two more down the street from there. Arty. observer is going down to OP and adjust arty. on them.

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- 0300 - Arty observer is adjusting fire in Kraut tanks.
- 0321 - One round hvy mortar dropped on CP. Bldg. One PW brought in from front lines.
- 0400 - Co's report all quiet since our Arty quit.
Arty observer reports that he heard men screaming when his fire was dropped behind church. Arty. observer reports that conc. 183 was platted behind church and is closest in so far, and brought best results. Arty placed on En. whicles reported previously.
- 0300 - No Activity.
- 0600 - A 20 man patrol was repulsed by Phiz. Baker, 3rd Bn. at 0400.
- 0605 - conc. 183 has been requested by Co. L OP. Tank is winding up back of church.
- 0616 - Co. L CP reports tank pulled out.
- 0636 - Co. L OP reports tank pulled out. Went down the hill back of the church and stopped in area of conc. 63.
- 0741 - Flame thrower tank is moving west from church, behind the buildings and is setting them on fire. Might not be a tank, but incendiary action.
- 0740 - 3 En. tanks approaching Hatten frm Buhe.
- 0744 - En. tanks moving in vicinity of church.
- 0800 - Maj. Studar visits CP.
- 0815 - Maj. Cavin at CP.
- 0840 - En. troops were seen to go into the church this morning so our tank is placing HE and WP shells in the hole caused by 155 fire.
- 0930 - CCR attacked En. at 0730 this morning in Hatten.
- 1005 - Gen. Wyche telephoned Col. Eason.
- 1020 - En. Ex. contacted Regtl. S-1 to evacuate civilians and dead from Rittershoffen.
- 1030 - Msg. received that 8 inch Arty are going to be fired at 1200 on enemy strong point. Our personnel to be w/drawn during the shelling and then reoccupy positions immediately after shelling.
- 1035 - Arty liaison officer contacts Arty that such a plan is impractical as church is much to close to FO observation point, and that our troops w/drawing during shelling would permit enemy to occupy our positions. Co. L receiving hvy. En. mortar fire. Plans are being made to shift positions this afternoon. Co. I is to be shifted to the east part of town. Armored Inf. to take over Co. I's positions.
- 1045 - Col. Eason called Gen. Wall and asked for permission to contact and control all Arty as our troops couldn't w/draw from positions and expect to reoccupy them.
- 1050 - Msg. sent to C.O., CCA by C.O. 3rd Bn., 315th Inf. in reply to Msg. of 0950--will not give permission to fire 8 inch howitzers in zone indicated with contact as close as it is. Cannot w/draw and expect to reoccupy area. Neither can FO adjust fire.
- 1110 - Co. L reports tank moving to their right.
- 1130 - En. tank is reported to have moved back of church to NE edge of town. Lt. Shelton wounded and evacuated. PW picked up this morning states he was in 21st Panzers. Came to town 3 days ago via Wissembourg. They have 4 Mark IV and 5 Mark V tanks. They are dressed in white uniforms. Their orders are to hold till the end but their Nom Coms say they can't hold. They have suffered many casualties and have no medical supplies.

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- 1130 - (con'd) A Major and a Capt. are in command and they have many Lts. Hqs. is in the big bldg. behind the church. Moved there last night. They have a flame thrower near church. They have had no food for 3 days except what they get from civilians.
- 1230 - Msg. from C.O., CCA by telephone that 8 inch Arty would be fired at 1445. Begin our w/drawal of bulk of forces to rear bldgs. immediately. Leave a security force in protected positions to prevent small infiltration. Your FO to remain in position so that if air observer can't observe, he can. Move back into positions upon completion of fires and exploit to the full the advantages gained from the firing.
- 1235 - Telephone msg. from C.O. delivered this afternoon. Stay in present and attack by fire.
- 1300 - Co. I and M C.O. looking over positions for the switch this afternoon. Co. I moving to the right street leading from the church.
- 1310 - 2nd Bn. is being hit by En. Armor. En. Armor column moving from NE on Hatten.
- 1325 - 2nd Bn. reports they were strafed by two P-47s.
- 1400 - Co. I receiving S/A fire from their front.
- 1415 - Radio intercept reports 2nd Bn. is threatened by En. attack from the N.
- 1420 - S/A fire coming from vicinity of church and in front of Co. M. Cannon Co. firing on troops to N of Hatten.
- 1505 - 2nd Bn. calling for Cannon Co. fire on S part of Hatten. Officers of 1st Bn. visit Bn. CP. One Co. of 313th to be attached to us besides 1st Bn., 315th. 1st Bn. 315th to attack tomorrow from the N and Co. of 313th to attack from the South on Rittershoffen.
- 1530 - Defensive plans for tonight are practically the same as last night only 4 mortars from Co. H are attached to Co. M for tonight.
- 1600 - 15 Civilians being evacuated. S/A fire over on our left flank. Mortar fires being shot in from new position on southern position of town. Shifting of troops within Rittershoffen about complete.
- 1625 - Armored outfit on our right pulled out and left a gap. Co. M contacted to get MGs into position as soon as possible to fill gap. Co. L reports they have 5 houses on fire occupied by the Germans. Arty FO goes to CP to shoot in defensive fires.
- 1700 - Co. L reports an En. tank on the right tip of town, NE, with a mortar mounted on it. Medium Arty being fired on it. Arty. landed near building that houses German Hqs. Arty adjusted so one round hit it direct.
- 1845 - En. mortar and Arty fires have slackened some, but during the day a one minute count was taken several times when shelling was heavy and it was found that they averaged 30 rounds per min. An estimated 600 rds per 3 hr. period was reported in to CCA Hq.
- 1930 - Our interdicting fire east of town caused Krauts to yell and scream for aid as Arty put 6 volleys of 105mm with pouzid fuze in the draw. All is very quiet now!
- 2000 - Co. L reports heavy En. vehicular movement in the draw N of Rittershoffen. Arty. layed into the draw. Unit on our left called and they fired Arty also into the draw
- 2030 - CCA Hqs. bombed. Lt. Barnes evacuated.
- 2100 - Engrs. dug in along road to be relieved by a platoon made up of AT Co. men, A&P men.

- 2110 - Maj. Schrewder of the tanks reports A Co. of 1st Bn., 315th to attack before daylight and seize high ground to West of town. He is leaving only 4 tanks and our orders haven't been received as yet for attack tomorrow.
- 2135 - Co. L reports an En. truck being unloaded N of the church. Cannon Co. to fire on it.
- 2000 - Co. C.C.'s. called to En. CP for attack orders for tomorrow. Orders are: One Co. of 313th Inf. to attack and seize SE part of Rittershoffen. Co. I to take the church and bldgs. NE. Two Plats. employed initially, one to work each side of street leading NW toward church. Each assault Plat. will carry one bazooka and one flame thrower. Co. I will move on order to church then to bldgs. behind church then clean block of bldgs N of road from Rittershoffen to Hatten. Co. K will move one Plat. on order to clean out bldgs. on W side of road. Co. L will cover intersection at church by fire from MGs to cover Co. I's advance to church. TPs will remain in position ready to fire on En. tanks or to move into firing positions to blast houses. Two tanks will remain in position on two main roads that lead toward the church. Co. A, 315th will seize high ground N of town with one Co. of tanks. 2020 - Order from CCA that Co. E, 313th isn't attached as planned. 3rd Bn. will do tomorrow what they were supposed to do today.

Jan. 17 -

- 0100 - Activity limited to SP and mortar fire.
- 0130 - Co. L reports a tracked vehicle to our right front.
- 0140 - MG and S/A fire reported to east toward Hatten. The center half-track of the 2nd Bn. supply train was bazookaed on the way out. It was hauling out wounded. Extent of damage unknown.
- 0206 - I Co. was just hit by artillery, 3 rounds, which apparently came from the rear, one hit their bldg.
- 0300 - Tomorrow we will have a new type tank with Muzzle Break, giving it the appearance of an En. tank.
- 0500 - All Co's. Neg.
- 0600 - Co. C.C. meeting held at En. CP. Given latest attack orders. Msg. received--68th will not detach rifle Co. to 3rd Bn., 315th Inf.
- 0645 - Co. L reports they think there is a tank out in the orchard. Our tanks and TPs alerted. Our 50 Cals. are firing to create diversion from the unit on our left's attack.
- 0700 - CP reports and En. half-track 50 yds. behind the church. Unit on our left has entered the town. Co. A is on the way to the hill N of Rittershoffen.
- 0700 - 0900 - 3rd Bn. supporting attack from right and left by fire. Capt. Wilson reports his tanks are in position and cutting road by fire to Hatten. Intense S/A fire over on the left flank where 1st Bn. is attacking.
- 0930 - Wire comes in from 1st Bn. Co. B is receiving intense S/A fire and they have only a few houses in the edge of town. Can't seem to advance at present.
- 1015 - Col. Schryver visits En. CP to pick up a guide to take him to the 1st Bn.
- 1045 - CP area and bldg. bracketed in with one minute mortar barrage.

- 1100 - Report from tanks that En. has strong point at 169348. Also reported AT gun very close at 172346.
- 1105 - Medium Arty to be placed on gun, request 8 inch guns on strong point.
- 1125 - Requested propaganda leaflets to be dropped on "Herman" for the irritation it will cause.
- 1140 - Fire is in to Bismark.
- 1220 - Another I Co. bldg. is burning.
- 1230 - Second Co. of 1st Bn. plus a Co. of tanks will attack Rittershoffen from the north at 1330.
- 1250 - One of the Co's reports that Heinie is using a manure pile for an OP. Tank is going to fire on it.
- 1315 - 3rd Bn. directing Arty. fire for Co. A attack.
- 1320 - Co. A is moving out in the attack.
- 1400 - Smoke is going to be laid down to cover Co. A advance. Plans are for Co. A to swing around and attack the town from the north to pocket what En. troops that are in Rittershoffen.
- 1435 - A critical shortage exists in the supply of 81 mortar ammo. Mortar crews notified not to fire unless we are attacked.
- 1440 - Friendly tank with Co. A are firing into friendly troops. Orders to cease fire are given by Tank Co.
- 1445 - Tanks with Co. A report they are receiving heavy mortar fire. Tanks get permission to fire into bldg. occupied by En. Inf. Mortar, Arty and assault gun fire are being put into that area. Heavy En. Arty. fire being received around En. CP.
- 1455 - Two more tanks to be taken away from us and sent over to the 68th.
- 1510 - 68th calling for tank fire with Co. A to be shifted further N. One heavy Arty. round hit En. CP bldg. No injuries.
- 1530 - Co's. K and L report they are receiving direct fire from what they think to be our tanks. Co's told to lay low as it will be hard to stop them during the attack.
- 1600 - Co. A is reported to have one Plat. in N edge of Rittershoffen.
- 1610 - A parachute was observed dropped to our right rear. Co. L reports they are still receiving fire from a direct fire weapon from their left rear.
- 1650 - Radio intercept that Co. A is to hold what they have with two medium tanks and the rest of the tanks to return to their original positions.
- 1700 - Co. L reports a tank firing into his CP on a 20 degree AZ.
- 1725 - The following Msg. was delivered To Capt. Dinkle: All remaining parts of A and B Co's will be moved or infiltrate into NE part of Rittershoffen immediately after dark. Both Co's will remain attached.
- 1725 - 1910 - Everything is quiet--much too quiet. Arty harassing fires being planned and same defense as last night in effect, minus two tanks. Arty ammo allocation has been cut considerably and harassing fires have been cut to a minimum.
- 1915 - Co. L reports En. tank moving in back of the church.
- 1930 - Col. Eason contacted Col. Call by wire. Co. A and B pretty badly cut up today. One medium tank was lost and about 75 men out of a full strength Co. got back. 2nd Bn. is still holding in Hatten. They still are getting supplies by night on half-tracks.

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- 2100 - OP bldg. in front of Co. L is burning down. 2nd Bldg. in front of Co. L CP is also burning, leaving two bldgs. between Bn. CP and church.
- 2100 - 2220 - All is quiet.
- 2220 - Several rounds of flat trajectory fell near Co. L. Regtl. S-2 notified of activity.
- 2230 - 2400 - Occasional mortar fire but everything unusually quiet. Regtl. S-2 reported 21st Panzer Div. has been identified to our S.

Jan. 18 -

- 0010 - All quiet.
- 0200 - En. tank firing intermittent rounds into Co. L Bldg.
- 0230 - 2nd Bn. supply train returned safely.
- 0400 - One or two big mortar rounds, otherwise Neg.
- 0500 - Five or six big mortar rounds.
- 0525 - Co. L received several rounds of direct fire from left again. Co. I reports also on gun.
- 0540 - Co. L reports sound of tanks far out to the right.
- 0605 - Tank again firing on Co. L, they report that fire is coming from left rear. Ex. Off. asked the armor to see if they have an indirect fire mission on the church.
- 0620 - Unit on our left did not have any fire mission in Bittershoffen/
- 0645 - Tank is still firing but rounds are going over L Co. and into En. territory now.
- 0700 - All Co's Neg.
- 0845 - Co. K is sending out a 6 man patrol across the main street to see if it is still occupied.
- 0850 - K Co. patrol reports they crossed the street and drew no fire. Co. K and L notified to cover the patrol in case they run into anything.
- 0910 - Co. K patrol reports they observed to rear of church and observed no enemy activity.
- 0915 - Bn. C.O. contacts Co. I to send out a 6 man patrol thru the orchard to the right of town.
- 0935 - Co. K patrol reports they have entered the bldgs in rear of church and no En. contacted. The balance of Co. K platoon to be sent across the street to search out bldgs. on East part of town. Patrol instructed to take it slow as Germans may be laying a trap to envelope them.
- 0945 - Co. L reports a couple of Germans in front of 1st platoon in a building across the street.
- 0950 - Hvy. En. Arty falling near Bn. CP and the right side of town. Co. L observed Germans in white houses on right of the church. Co. K patrol notified to be on the lookout for them.
- 1000 - Civilians are coming from N part of town going back to Niederodorf.
- 1015 - Co. I patrol has moved out and remainder of Co. K Plat. has moved across the main street.
- 1025 - Unit on our left reports plenty Germans in their section of town. They also observed a Mark III tank.
- 1040 - Remainder of Co. K platoon couldn't get across the main street. Germans threw grenades at them from an upstairs window.

- 1055 - Arty. reports or tanks flushed out about 200 Germans in the woods on our right flank and disposed of them. 2nd Bn. is Hatten repulsed an attack from the NE. Arty has been fired on AA guns on our left.
- 1110 - Co. L reports part of Co. K got accross the street and the rest of them are pinned down by automatic fire. 68th on our left reports two En. tanks in their sector. Co. Ks patrol has pulled back from rear of church to bldgs directly accross from Co. K. 511th Arty. reports they have fired 4397 rounds of Arty since we have been in Rittershoffen.
- 1140 - Regtl. S-2 reports Sossenheim was attacked by the En. and is now cut off, 314th has been shifted over there and the 12th Armored is also in that vicinity. The general conception is the En. is shifting their strength to the S trying to outflank us. A paratroop outfit is believed to be defending Rittershoffen against us. Arty reports their Arty. ammo has been replenished.
- 1155 - Co. I patrol reports they have picked up an En. OP to our right in the orchard. 81 mortars to be fired on it.
- 1225 - Co. K patrol reports they have knocked out 1 MG and disposed of 6 or 8 Germans and captured two. Co. K patrol still working toward the North-South road that runs past the church.
- 1300 - Co. K reports our Arty is firing to close to our troops.
- 1315 - The tanks on our left are firing on an enemy AT gun that is located E of the church. Fire is very close to our patrols, so the patrols will be held up until 1330, at which time Arty. will be under our direction only.
- 1350 - Krauts have reoccupied the church.
- 1400 - Our tank is going to move down into vicinity of church and is going to fire AP, WP, and HE into the Majors house which is occupied by Krauts.
- 1500 - Co. I patrol is receiving S/A fire from the white bldg in back of the church. Co. L asked to rake it with MG fire. Tank fire is hitting church and splatting on our own men.
- 1505 - Report that Germans are running all different directions. Our tank is ordered to fire more into German occupied bldgs. K Co. is mowing them down. Co. I reports their patrol is split into two parts and is receiving MG fire from white bldg. in rear of the church. K Co. calls for tanks as they have En. trapped and can clean them out.
- 1525 - Co. K reports our tank has moved back. An En. flat trajectory wpn. is firing on our troops. Smoke is being fired by our mortars on bldg to rear of church to cover Co. I patrol who is receiving Hvy. En. MG fire. Our tank is being maneuvered around to get a firing position to fire on white bldg. from the rear.
- 1540 - An En. tank is moving up toward the church. Smoke called for again to cover Co. I patrol. Our tanks and TDs alerted to watch for En. tank.
- 1555 - More smoke called for to cover Co. I's movement.
- 1620 - Co. I patrol working its way up to En. in bldg. under cover of smoke. Our tank hit by bazooka and knocked a track off.
- 1700 - 5 men of Co. I patrol pinned down by MG fire while the rest went forward. Patrol reports they have some PWs but can't get back right now.
- 1715 - 4 Prisoners brought in by Co. I.

- 1720 - Co. I reports their patrol knocked out the MG that had them pinned down.
- 1730 - Co. I patrol reports a large group of men moving around to their left rear. Also tank movement from that direction. Patrol reports Germans running back and forth between church and bldg. to the rear of the church.
- 1750 - Co. I patrol to stay where they are tonight. They are located approximately at the SW corner of the cemetery. Lt. Masters, a new officer, is leading the patrol.
- 1835 - TP and OP report firing from Right front, toward Hatten. Flares were thrown out that way to observe any possible activity.
- 2000 - En. tank reported NE of the church.
- 2015 - Co. I reports En. tank movement to their right front. Arty. laying on it.
- 2020 - Co. I patrol reports a German going into alley in the rear of the church.
- 2030 - 2230 - Everything fairly quiet except for a few Arty. rounds.
- 2245 - Regt. S-2 reports 4 PWs captured today were interrogated and information gained was: There are 7 assault guns in Rittershoffen at present, 3 flame throwers on Mark IV tanks. Supplies were brought in by halftrack at midnight. Our WP is very effective. On Jan. 9 he saw 300 American prisoners in Hatten, and 50 in Rittershoffen 4 or 5 days ago.
- 2340 - Co. I reports a German patrol came by them, and their BAR man chewed them up. Arty. reports Hatten was attacked again and they are firing on them.
- Jan. 19 -
- 0010 - A .50 Cal. heard firing in Co. L area. Co. L is checking to see what the activity was. Co. I reports En. is tossing hand grenades across the street at them.
- 0130 - 48th contacted per CP.
- 0330 - Lt. Klein inspected his AT guns and they are alert.
- 0400 - All is quiet.
- 0420 - 48th checked in.
- 0530 - 48th checked in.
- 0600 - Burp gun fired on left plat. of Co. I and several rounds S/A fire to their right.
- 0620 - 48th checked in.
- 0630 - Co. L threw up a flare to observe the orchard to their right. Some activity was heard there.
- 0654 - S/A fire in front of OPL. Also burp gun.
- 0715 - 48th checked in.
- 0730 - 2nd Bn. reports heavy tank fire from ridge to the N of them, coming in. Also coming in from Ridge to W of their town.
- 0800 - 2nd Bn. is being attacked from the S with infantry and from the N with much armor. 2nd Bn. calling for all barrages around the town and for help immediately with tanks and lots of them.
- 0900 - 2nd Bn. reports it is the heaviest attack yet on Hatten with lots of armor. They are calling for armored help if they expect them to hold. All Arty being fired to try to stem the attack.
- 0930 - 2nd Bn. still calling for armor. and blood plasma.

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- 1945 - Regt. reports armor is on the way to help 2nd Bn.
- 1000 - Capt. Dunkel, 1st Bn., visits Bn. CP and reports nothing has been heard from Co. B since the attack the day before yesterday. The Germans are also attacking to the S of us driving towards Hagneau. 36th Div. is pitted against that attack along with the 12th Armored.
- 1015 - A radio report--The Russians are entering Germany on a 70 mile front.
- 1030 - 2nd Bn. reports our light tanks got into them with medical supplies but haven't seen any of our medium tanks.
- 1100 - 2nd Bn. calling for Arty to be shot on ridge N of Hatten on En. tanks firing direct fire in Hatten.
- 1215 - 2nd Bn. reports that their tanks have pulled back and they can't hold without them. Tanks are ordered to get back into their positions and to hold at all costs.
- 1300 - All Co's notified to fire a little of everything at 1400 to let the En. know we are still here.
- 1430 - Mortars and S/A fired but no reactionary fire received.
- 1430 - Tanks fire on Northern tip of town and the Enemy retaliated with heavy Arty.
- 1500 - En. Arty still heaving shells at Rittershoffen.
- 1530 - Col. Holten, 2nd Bn. C.O. calls 3rd Bn. to see if we were being attacked. 3rd Bn. Ex. replies everything OK.
- 1530 - 1630 - En. shelling of Rittershoffen continues.
- 1630 - Medics report a "dud" is on the road back to the rear. A and P squad to remove it.
- 1630 - 1730 - Heavy En. shelling continues. Aid station hit. Capt. McMillan hit and evacuated.
- 1800 - Trip flares to be placed out in the orchard to the right of town tonight as some movement has been observed today in that vicinity.
- 1830 - Co. L reports seeing more movement in the orchard.
- 1930 - Tanks and Inf. heard beyond church.
- 1945 - En. half tracks, trucks, and Inf. were heard moving out of Rittershoffen on road NE of church. They were given Arty, cannon and mortar fire. Men were heard shouting after the first barrage.
- 2010 - A great deal of En. vehicular movement can be heard out on the Hatten road.
- 2010 - A Co. L man who was cut off by the German attack on Rittershoffen eight days ago told his story to the Bn. C.O. this evening. It seems that the En. tanks and Inf. came in on the main Hatten road, the Co. L men were dug in right with our tanks. These men waited for the U.S. tanks to do something, but after the German tanks charged up and fired a few rounds ours backed out. German Infantry followed the German tanks about 75 yards. Lead tank came right up to our lines and an English speaking tankier shouted out, "Alright boys, lets partee!" Co. L men leaped out of holes and the fireworks started. This Co. L man and his partner circled behind German lines all day and made our lines late in the afternoon. Men who did not jump out of holes received direct fire from German tanks from 25 to 30 yards away. Some were captured many killed in holes.

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- 2010 - (con'd) There were not many Infantrymen with the tanks. There were 5 German Mark V tanks in the sector in front of Co. L man, and 3 came in from the left.
- 2030 - At, Td's, and tanks were warned to be especially alert tomorrow morning from 0600 on. An attack is expected.
- 2115 - Regtl. S-2 reports--2 deserters from 3rd Co., 35th Regt, 25th Panzer Div. were in position 8 days in Railway station near Hatten. They only had two killed and 4 wounded as they were housed in a very strongly constructed building. 3 halftracks from Rittershoffen were captured by 313th after knocking out the vehicles and killing all but six of the personnel. Th Pws reported they were to relieved last night. They tired of waiting for relief took off on wrong road. They were from the 21st Panzer Div. They were to be relieved by two SS Divs., 1 SS and VG Div. Their Co. strengths were down to about 20 men apiece. Heavy casualties were suffered from our Arty. Night before last our Arty knocked out all their 80 mortars and 18 vehicles. Also in Rittershoffen are 4 paratroop Co's. Strength and casualties unknown. PW reported 1st B Co. fought until 1130 the day before yesterday before they were killed or captured.
- 2130 - All Co's notified of En. information. Co. I reports En. tanks moving around to the left of the church. Cannon Co. firing on it and 4.2 mortars searching the draw used for supply route by the En.
- 2200 - 2300 - Atty firing on vehicular movements. Co. L hit one En. vehicle with 60mm mortar. 81 mortar hit an ammo vehicle, caused it to explode.

Jan. 20 -

- 0100 - 0300 - Negative reports.
- 0300 - Co. I reports 1 En. MG fired towards I Co. C P. from a position 150 yds to left of the church. A flare was put up but nothing was observed.
- 0425 - Two trip flares went off back of K Co. in the orchard.
- 0555 - One tank reported to be moving around, it is located back of the church.
- 0500 - I and L Co. outposts report a tracked vehicle moving in back of the church.
- 0535 - Received half dozen rounds of HE tank fire in vicinity of CP.
- 0540 - TD and tanks all been alerted and reports are Neg.
- 0603 - I Co. reports hearing a truck to left rear of church and at an undetermined distance out.
- 0630 - L Co. patrol returned--They reached the tanks, threw 2 grenades in it and returned. Saw no signs of Germans.
- 0725 - OP reports sounds of vehicles far out beyond the church.
- 0800 - 1000 - Not much activity.
- 1030 - Co. L to send out a patrol at 1100 to the knocked out tank in the orchard. Regtl. S-2 reports 3 Pws captured near our supply route. They were sent there to see how heavy the traffic was and to have Engrs. mine the road.
- 1040 - Co. L reports 3 En. tanks in S. tip of town.
- 1100 - Co. K to send out a patrol E along main street in an effort to get a PW.

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- 1145 - Co. L reports there patrol got past the knocked out tank and up on the ridge and received S/A fire from NE tip of town. Patrol returned but two men were wounded.
- 1225 - Bn. Arty. landing around Bn. CP. One 105 mm "dud" is burning beside CP building.
- 1330 - Bn. is moving back sometime tonight. The plan is to leave the TPs and Tanks till last and have some Inf. with them. They will head the Inf. out. The Bn. will move in small groups to the next town, Niederbetschdorf. The trucks will be waiting on the far end of town. The column will not pull out until every man is present. Destination is Hochstett, South of Haguenau. Rolls and equipment will not be moved till after dark.
- 1540 - Relieving party left. Co's are going to pull out in small groups 10 minutes apart. The CP, with a sound power, will stay till last. Medics and bulk of Hqs. will pull out all at once, in charge of P/Sgt. Stegall, just after dark. Our tanks to remain as covering force.
- 1715 - CP reports 6 rds of Bn. mortar at 50 degree Az.
- 1805 - Two flashes, one white and one yellow at 290 degree Az. from CP.
- 1825 - CP reports dog barking near vicinity of church, area fired by cannon company.
- 1930 - CP reports fire burning at a 90 degree Az. about 1200 yds.
- 2000 - L Co. patrol contacted unit on right.
- 2030 - One pair of AA search lights are sighted to converge over Raltenhouse; one pair to converge over Oberhoffen.
- 2010 - Tanks running motors behind church and voices of Krauts can be heard. Arty and mortar to fire on them.
- 2010 - M Co. Plat. with K Co. moved out.
- 2012 - Bn. Inf. seen running across alleyways towards bldgs. on our left flank.
- 2025 - Last elements of Co. M cleared.
- 2030 - K Co. second platoon cleared CP.
- 2040 - Word came down that we were to hold until 0300. The L Co. and K Co. last groups were on the road in front of CP ready to leave when the order was received.
- 2230 - L Co. with 21 men is back in place around the tanks. We have two strongpoints on each street of triangle. Men in vicinity of CP are covering the flanks. There are also 16 men that will still remain with the two tanks and two TPs.
- 2315 - Commo. with Regt. by wire and radio. Commo. with L Co. by wire and radio, M Co. by radio only.

Jan. 21 --

- 0100 - Main body of 3rd Bn. less shell now clear of Rittershoffen and back in Neiderbetschdorf where CM trucks are waiting to transport them to Hochstette.
- 0245 - Main body of 3rd Bn. detricks at Hochstette and are housed in hay barns as elements of 42nd Div. Kitchens occupy most bldgs.
- 0315 - Shell left in Rittershoffen start w/drawal. Rd's revert to 1st Bn. who is to w/draw at 0500 and tanks revert to 48th Tank Bn.

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- 0445 - shell detrucks at Hochstette.
- 0500 - 2400 - Entire day spent in billeting troops in better houses, cleaning of equipment, and resting of troops as best as possible under present housing conditions. Regt. called for roster of all men physically present and it was complied with at 1400. Hot meals served at dinner and supper. Weather quite cold with snow. 2300 - Msg. received from Regt. that a recon party with 284 radio will make recon of positions in vicinity of Bischwiller tomorrow early.

Jan. 22 -

- 0700 - Hot Breakfast
- 0830 - Bn. CO and S-3 go on recon.
- 1030 - Bn. CO and S-3 return from recon and report meeting Gen. Wyche in vicinity of 314th sector and 315th is scheduled to relieve the 314th tomorrow night. Orders from Regt. haven't been received as yet.
- 1100 - 2400 - Day spent administratively, checking vehicles, ammo, physical exams, and shower schedule, and movies at night. Regtl. S-2 reported elements of 21 Panzer Div. in Northern Haguenau, with Bn. movement in vicinity of Bischwiller. 1st Bn. was moved to Warrenthal in Div. reserve. 3rd Bn. received 14 GM trucks to be used when movement order arrives. Lt. Palkey assigned as Bn. S-2. Hot meals served all 3 meals.

Jan. 23 -

- 0700 - 1200 - Shower schedule carried out and whole Bn. bathed. Further reorganization of Bn. being taken care of. Movie shown at 0900 and 1100.
- 1200 - 1900 - Further care and cleaning of equipment. Co. I and K received permission to fire BARs and MGs from 1500 to 1600. Gen. Wyche visited Bn. CP at 1630. Bn. CO, S-2 and S-3 went on recon of a defensive position around Memmenheim. Catholic services held in local church in Hochstette. Administrative work being taken care of by all of Bn. Hot meals served all 3 meals. Regtl. S-2 reported Bn. activity all along the Lauter river. No attacks reported by S-2, but extensive Bn. patrolling reported by 222nd Inf. One Bn. reported in Northern Haguenau.
- 1900 - Co. Co.O. meeting held at Bn. CP to iron out problems in the reorganization of the Bn. Over 300 am and 12 officers were lost in Wittershoffen Battle. Movies held at 1900 and 2100.
- 2200 - Regtl. S-2 reports all fronts fairly quiet with very little Bn. artillery. An 8 man Bn. patrol reported near Martzwiller and 6 were killed and one captured. They were identified as being from the 245 VG Div. One Bn. of 21st Panzer is reported in Northern half of Haguenau.

Jan 24 -

- 0730 - Hot Breakfast.
- 0815 - Regtl. C.O. visits Bn. CP.